

15 January 1962

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Robert E. Matteson

1. ACDA has secured a chemist, Professor Long of Cornell University, to head the Bureau of Science and Technology. Ambassador Beam will become head of the Office of International Relations. Although not certain, it is likely that Ambassador Byroade will become head of the Disarmament Advisory Staff. Mr. Matteson is presently acting head of this staff and would become Ambassador Byroade's number two man. Admiral Parker has been named as head of the Weapons Evaluation and Control Office. Mr. Foster is still seeking an economist to head the Economics Office.

2. The US delegation to the 18 Nation Disarmament Conference is expected to total about 15 professionals and about 7 secretaries and clerks, although Mr. Matteson is skeptical that it can be kept this small. The delegation will include one representative from State, one from the AEC, one from CIA and two from the Department of Defense (one from the JCS and one from ISA).

3. Mr. Foster was very unhappy about the JCS answer to a series of questions which he transmitted to them in connection with the Foster Panel Disarmament Program (ACDA Plan 1). The JCS replied to the effect that they did not wish to answer the specific questions and instead confined themselves to highly critical comments about various portions of the Foster Plan. Mr. Foster has talked to Secretary McNamara about the JCS answer and Secretary McNamara promised Mr. Foster that the JCS would answer the specific questions by the middle of February. Mr. Matteson believes that Mr. McNamara may have some difficulty getting the JCS to reverse its original decision not to answer the questions. He speculates that perhaps WSEG or ISA will do the work and co-ordinate the reply with the JCS.

4. The JCS comments were forwarded to ACDA together with comments prepared by ISA and signed by Under Secretary Gilpatrick. The ISA comments were prepared by Mr. McNaughton with the assistance of a group of consultants which included, among others, Professor Schelling

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of Harvard and Allen Ferguson of RAND (?). These comments were well balanced and not nearly so negative as the JCS comments. Mr. McNaughton is prepared to recommend to the Secretary of Defense the acceptance in principle of parity in strategic delivery vehicles, with the understanding that the particular numbers now included in the Foster Plan (1,000 in Stage B, and 500 in Stage C for each side) would not be taken as gospel.

5. Secretary McNamara, who was away at the time, was displeased that the Department of Defense reply to the ACDA questions consisted of two separate and unreconciled parts. Mr. McNamara has directed that the new reply to be prepared by the middle of February be a single reply reflecting the views of the Department of Defense.

6. A Background Paper and a Position Paper are being written for the 18 Nation negotiation to begin in March. The Background Paper will be a fairly long paper which will give the rationale for the US negotiating position and will bear a high classification plus NOFORN. The Position Paper will be considerably shorter, bear a lower classification than the Background Paper (perhaps CONFIDENTIAL or OFFICIAL USE ONLY) and will be cleared with our Allies. These papers may or may not go to the Principals. They will be co-ordinated with other agencies and will go to the Principals only if agreement cannot be reached at lower levels. If agreement cannot be reached by the Principals, the issues in controversy will be taken to the President.

7. The Foster Panel is coming in on January 17 to take a look at the Defense and JCS comments reported on above and to take another look at the Foster Proposal (ACDA Plan 1) which they produced. It has been decided that the September 25 US Plan tabled at the United Nations will be the basic plan to be negotiated at the 18 Nation Conference. ACDA Plan 1 will be used in "bits and pieces" to amplify the September 25 plan and to make it concrete, to the extent that agreement on it can be secured within the US Government.

8. Talks with our Allies prior to the 18 Nation Conference will begin in early February and will be bilateral at first. It is expected that there will be combined meeting at the end of February at a place not yet selected, but probably Washington or Paris.

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